

Message Text

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22

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 /025 W

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R 112115Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1922

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DEPT PASS INTERIOR USGS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EMIN, BL

SUBJ: LITHIUM IN SALAR DE UYUNI

REF: STATE 197458

1. EMBASSY HAS CHECKED WITH MINISTRY OF MINES
AND IT HAS NO OBJECTION TO VISIT OF
MR. EVANS. MINERALS ATTACHE IS MAKING
APPOINTMENT AT MINISTRY AND GEOBOL FOR
MONDAY, AUGUST 16. CONTACT JOHN CURRY AT
EMBASSY.

2. FOOTE MINERAL CO. HAS ALREADY VISITED
LA PAZ RE SUBJECT DISCOVERY AND WILL BE
RETURNING AGAIN. USGS TEAM TO VISIT BOLIVIA
SEPTEMBER 12 TO ASSIST BOLIVIANS IN FURTHER
EVALUATION OF SALAR. FRENCH TEAM (ORSTROM)
WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

3. PRELIMINARY SAMPLING INDICATES POSSIBILITY
VALUABLE DEPOSITS, BUT MUCH FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDED
TO PROVE COMMERCIAL FEASIBILITY.

4. VISIT TO SALAR WILL DEPEND ON GOB. POSSIBLE
ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH MINATT ON AUGUST
16.

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5. WE WISH TO CALL TO OPIC'S ATTENTION THAT THIS EMBASSY HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED ON FOREIGN POLICY GROUNDS OPIC INSURANCE OF EQUITY INVESTMENTS BY US COMPANIES IN THE MINERALS EXTRACTION SECTOR BECAUSE OF THE TRADITIONAL AND CONTINUING POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN THIS SECTOR IN BOLIVIA. WHILE WE ARE PREPARED TO FACILITATE THE GULF RESOURCES VISIT, THIS IN NO WAY IMPLIES ANY CHANGE IN OUR GENERAL POSITION WITH RESPECT TO OPIC INSURANCE OF SUCH EQUITY INVESTMENTS.

STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition History: n/a
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